The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m., on Tuesday the 8th March 1921, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15.]

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Maintenance of Buckingham Canal.

392 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. ARUNACHALA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue—

(*a*) to furnish in respect of the maintenance of the Buckingham Canal both north of Madras and south of Madras statement showing—

(i) the allotment for repairs including silt clearance during the last three years,

(ii) expenditure actually incurred,

(iii) the percentage of expenditure to allotment,

(iv) the agency employed for carrying out the repairs ;

(*b*) whether the canal cannot be maintained in a navigable condition throughout the year.

A.—(*a*) (i) to (iii) A statement showing the allotment for and expenditure incurred on repairs to the Buckingham Canal during the years 1917–18, 1918–19 and 1919–20 is shown below :—

	1917–18.	1918–19.	1919–20.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1. Budget grant ..	89,960	1,04,959	1,50,000
2. Final grant ..	1,02,794	1,50,292	1,84,900
3. Expenditure incurred.	1,02,577	1,53,564	1,86,489
Percentage of 3 to 2	100	102	101

(iv) The works were carried out by Public Works Department contractors.

(*b*) The Buckingham Canal is designed for a depth of 3 feet only north of Madras and 2 feet south of Madras ; and it is ordinarily maintained to this depth throughout the year. But as it is a tidal canal entirely dependent on sea water for replenishment and as sometimes heavy silt deposits are brought down into the canal by floods during the north-east monsoon, some unavoidable obstructions to traffic are liable to be formed. Such obstructions are removed as promptly as possible.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS